Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, IT, PO, XT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN SOCIALISTS ACCEPT SOARES' FORMAL INVITATION TO A MEETING OF SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST MEDITERRANEAN PARTIES

1. SOCIALIST (PSI) SECRETARY DEMARTINO HAS PUBLISHED OCTOBER 10 TEXT OF SOARES FORMAL INVITATION TO MEETING OF SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST MEDITERRANEAN PARTIES, AND HIS ACCEPTANCE. SOARES LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 29 AND REPORTEDLY RECEIVED BY PSI OCTOBER 6 OR 7. TEXT FOLLOW:

2. SOARES LETTER: SOME TIME AGO I LAUNCHED THE IDEA OF A MEETING OF SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN: FRENCH, ITALIAN, SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE. IT SEEMS TO ME, IN FACT, THAT THE SOCIALIST FORCES OF THESE COUNTRIES SHOULD MAKE AN EFFORT TO COORDINATE THEIR STRATEGIES IN THE FIRM (SOLIDALE) STRUGGLE WHICH THEY WAGE FOR A MORE JUST, MORE FRATERNAL, SOCIALIST SOCIETY. INDEED, IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE CAN MAKE DECISIVE ADVANCES UNLESS WE ARE UNITED, GIVEN

THE GEO-POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT OF OUR COUNTRIES. PARA. WITH THIS LETTER, I WISH TO MAKE OFFICIAL THE INVI-TATION I HAD MADE FOR THIS MEETING AT THE LEVEL OF GENERAL SECRETARIES OF OUR PARTIES. A MEETING WHICH WE COULD HOLD. IF YOU ARE IN AGREEMENT, IN LISBON AT THE END OF NOVEMBER ON A DATE TO BE MUTUALLY DETERMINED. PARA. I THINK THAT THE REALIZATION OF THIS INITIATIVE COULD CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT STEP ON THE ROAD TO CONSTRUCTING A DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIALIST EUROPE, PARA, I BEG YOU, DEAR COMRADE, TO CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION TO ME, AND TO MAKE YOUR PRO-POSALS CONCERNING THE PLACE OF THE MEETING. THE DATE, AND THE AGENDA. I THINK WE SHOULD DETERMINE IN ADVANCE THE PLACE AND SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION, BECAUSE IT IS A MATTER NOT SO MUCH OF ANALYZING THE PORTUGUESE EXPERIENCE IN DETAIL, AS MUCH AS CONTRONTING THE PROBLEMS FOR THE REALIZATION OF SOCIALISM IN EUROPE. PARA. IN EXPECTATION OF SEEING YOU IN LISBON, I BEG YOU, TO ACCEPT, ETC.

- 3. DEMARTINO TELEGRAPHED REPLY, OCTOBER 8: "ON BEHALF OF THE PSI I AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING OF SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTIES OF LATIN COUNTRIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN. PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE DATE, PLACE, AND AGENDA CAN BE SETTLED ON THE OCCASION OF MY VISIT TO PORTUGAL FOR WHICH I HAVE PROPOSED THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER."
- 4. COMMENT: THE PSI'S RESPONSE IS PROMPT, BUT BRUSQUE AND IMPLICITYLY DILATORY. PUTTING OFF DISCUSSION OF THE DETAILS UNTIL DEMARTINO VISIT LISBON IN NOVEMBER MEANS THE MEETING CAN HARDLY BE HELD AT THE TIME SUGGESTED BY SOARES. THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS (PCI) WHICH NO DOUBT RECEIVED THE SAME LETTER, HAVE YET TO REACT. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT CUNHAL HAS ALREADY SPURNED THE PROPOSAL, AN EVEN MORE DILATORY AND CAREFUL ACCEPTANCE IS LIKELY. THE PCI HAS CONSISTENTLY TRIED TO STEER A MIDDLE COURSE BETWEEN OPEN DISAGREEMENT WITH CUNHAL'S METHODS DEMANDED BY ITS DOMESTIC DEMOCRATIC IMAGE, AND THE PRO-CUNHAL SENTIMENT OF MUCH OF ITS RANK-AND-FILE AS WELL AS THE CPSU'S SUPPORT FOR CUNHAL. VOLPE

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